

Serial No.: 10/030,862

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) In a two-part hinge closure (3) having a lower part (1) which can be placed on a container and having a circumferential first casing wall (10), and a cap (2) which can be connected with the lower part (1) by a movable hinge and has a second casing wall (20), wherein the lower part (1) and the cap (2) are made separately of each other and can be assembled together, wherein in an assembled, closed state the first casing wall (10) and the second casing wall (20) extend flush above each other, the improvement comprising: the lower part (1) and the cap (2) connectible with each other by a snap hinge having at least one spring element (24, 124, 204) and at least one coupling element (27, 127, 270), the at least one spring element (24, 124, 204) including a flexible material strip on which the at least one coupling element (27, 127, 270) is formed, the at least one spring element (24, 124, 204) and the at least one coupling element (27, 127, 270) formed in one piece with one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2) and connected in at least one of an interlocking manner and a frictionally connected manner with an other of the lower part (1) and the cap (2), and in the closed state of the closure (3) the at least one spring element (24, 124, 204) and the at least one coupling element (27, 127, 270) being at least approximately flush with the first casing wall (10) and the second casing wall (20).

Serial No.: 10/030,862

2. (Previously Presented) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein the lower part (1) has at least one of a pouring spout (12) and a pouring opening, and the cap (2) has a sealing element (33) which sealingly acts together with the at least one of the pouring spout (12) and the pouring opening in an interlocking manner.

3. (Previously Presented) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein the at least one spring element comprises two strap retainers (24), wherein ends of the strap retainers (24) project away from one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2) and are connected with each other by the at least one coupling element (27).

4. (Previously Presented) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein the at least one spring element (124, 204) comprises a snap hinge (101, 200) bordered by two curved film hinges, wherein one of the film hinges (125, 202) forms a first connection with the cap (2) to which the at least one spring element is injection-molded, and an other of the film hinges (126, 204) forms a second connection with the at least one coupling element (127, 270).

Serial No.: 10/030,862

5. (Canceled)

5. 6. (Currently Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein a concentric receiving slit (16) which is offset toward a center of the two-part hinge closure by a thickness of a casing is provided on one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2), in which the at least one coupling element is received in the at least one of an interlocking manner and a frictionally connected manner.

6. 7. (Currently Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 6, wherein the one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2) with the receiving slit (16) has at least one recess (14) which secures provides free mobility of the at least one spring element (24, 124) during an opening and closing movement.

7. 8. (Currently Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1 wherein[[,]] the at least one coupling element (127) which is formed in one piece with one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2) comprises at least one rib (128) of one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2) connected in a snapped-in fashion with ribs (122) on [[an]] the other of one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2);

Serial No.: 10/030,862

(2), is provided on the at least one coupling element (127) which is connected in one piece with the lower part (1) and the cap (2).

8 9. (Previously Presented) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein a security strip (4) is injection-molded to one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2) on which the at least one spring element (24, 124) and the at least one coupling element (27, 127) are arranged.

9 10. (Previously Presented) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 9, wherein the at least one coupling element (27, 127) and the security strip (4) extend at least by a same distance above a casing wall edge of one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2).

10 11. (Previously Presented) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein one of the first casing wall (10) and the second casing wall (20) comprises a recess (120) adapted to receive at least a portion of the flexible material of the snap hinge.

Serial No.: 10/030,862

11 12. (Previously Presented) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein a security strip (4) is arranged on one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2) which extends around as far as a hinge area of the closure.

12 13. (Previously Presented) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein a security strip (400) is arranged on the lower part (1) which is free of a spring element (204) and the at least one coupling element (270) and is at least approximately completely circumferential.

13 14. (Previously Presented) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein the lower part (1) and the cap (2) are injection molded from at least one of a different plastic material and a different color.

14 15. (Previously Presented) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 14, wherein at least one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2) is made of PET.

15 16. (Previously Presented) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein the at least one coupling element (27, 127, 270) in

Serial No.: 10/030,862

an assembled state forms a part of one of the first casing wall (10) and the second casing wall (20).

*16* 17. (Previously Presented) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein a pressing element (19) is arranged on one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2) which in an assembled state keeps the at least one coupling element (27, 127) frictionally connected with retaining projections (19').

*17* 18. (Previously Presented) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 4, wherein the at least one spring element (204) is arranged between the cap (2) and a ring-shaped coupling element (270) which is formed flush on the second casing wall (20) by a tear seam (271).

*18* 19. (Previously Presented) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 18, wherein in an upper area (211) the first casing wall (10) has a shoulder (212) which is offset inward by a thickness of the first casing wall (10).

Serial No.: 10/030,862

19 20. (Previously Presented) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 19, wherein a security strip (400) is formed by a predetermined breaking seam (401) in an area of the shoulder (212).

20 21. (Previously Presented) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 19, wherein a second upper area (210) of the second casing wall (20) has retaining notches (211) and the at least one coupling element (270) has retaining beads (206) which interlockingly fit into retaining notches.

21 22. (Previously Presented). In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 20, wherein the security strip (400) has a retaining lip (402) which interlockingly extends over a portion of the cap (2).

22 23. (Previously Presented) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 22, wherein the cap (2) has a pressure bead (205) on a lower edge of the second casing wall (20) which is interlockingly held by the retaining lip (402).

Serial No.: 10/030,862

*17*  
24. (Previously Presented) In the two-part hinge closure in  
accordance with claim 18, wherein a second upper area (210) of the second casing  
wall (20) has retaining notches (211) and the at least one coupling element (270) has  
retaining beads (206) which interlockingly fit into retaining notches.